

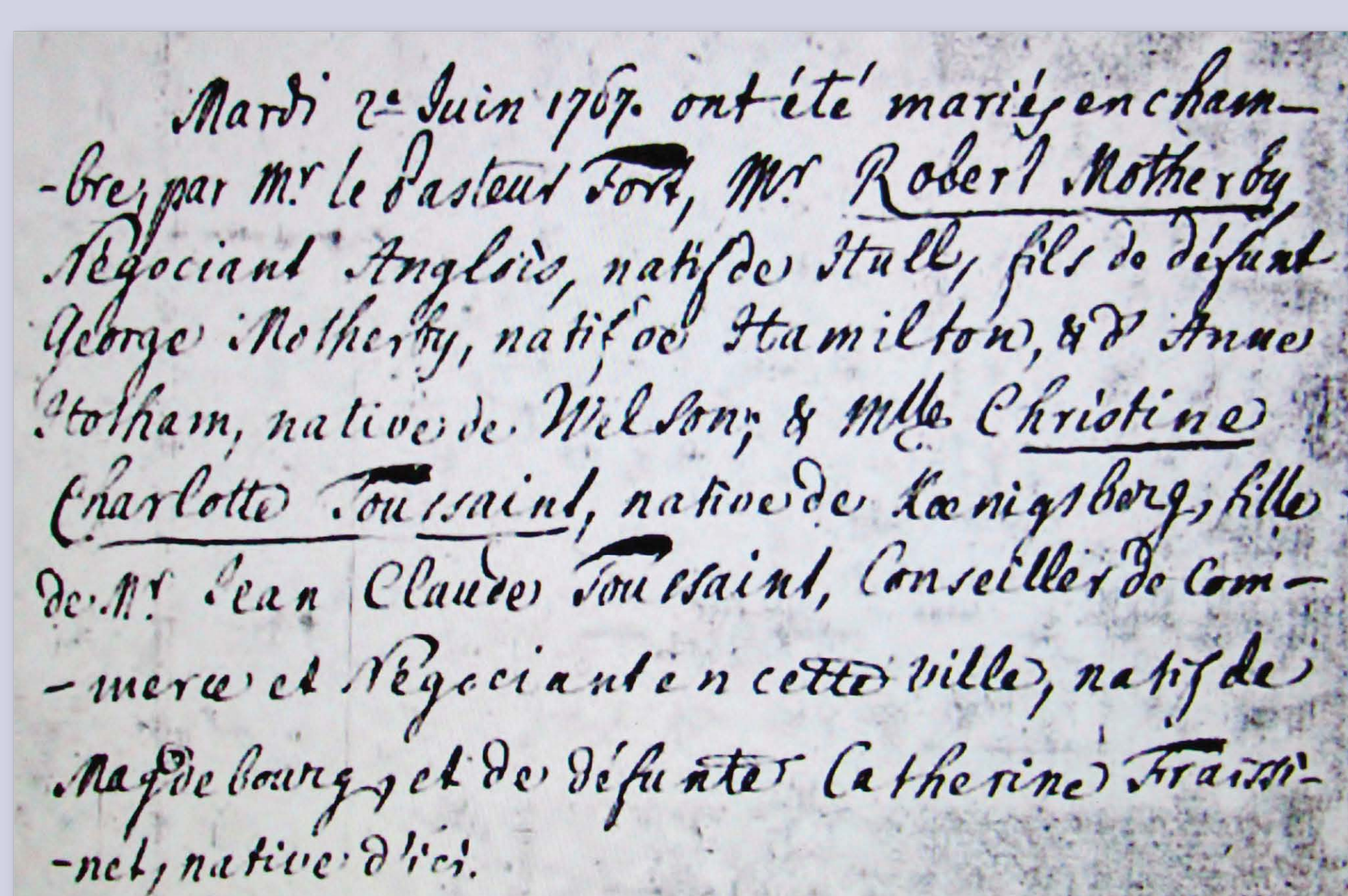
KANT'S FRIENDS FROM HULL – 2

Robert Motherby was born on December 23, 1736 in Hull and died in Königsberg on February 13, 1801. His father George, from a farming family at Hambleton, near Selby, had moved to Hull by 1723 when he married Ann Hotham from Welton. George Motherby like Joseph Green, senior, was a Baptist and is said to have helped found the Baptist Church at Hull.

George died in 1748, and in his will he left £100, then in the hands of Joseph Green, merchant, to pay for his son George's apprenticeship to a Hull apothecary. It was no doubt through the close link with the Greens that George Motherby became a doctor for some years in Königsberg, and his brother Robert went there to work with Joseph Green, junior.



Charlotte Motherby 1742-1794 (Karin Hahn)



The Motherbys' marriage entry in the register of the French Protestant Church, Königsberg which helpfully gives full details of their parents and identifies Robert as an English trader, native of Hull. (Bill Longbone)

In 1767 Robert married Charlotte Toussaint whose Huguenot grandparents had come from France to Germany around 1700. The Toussaints were one of the prominent commercial families in Königsberg. Robert and Charlotte had eleven children, two dying young. From an early age the children spoke German, French and English fluently, the sons spending time in England. Sunday lunch in the Motherby home was a fixture in Kant's later life and he played a significant role in the children's upbringing.

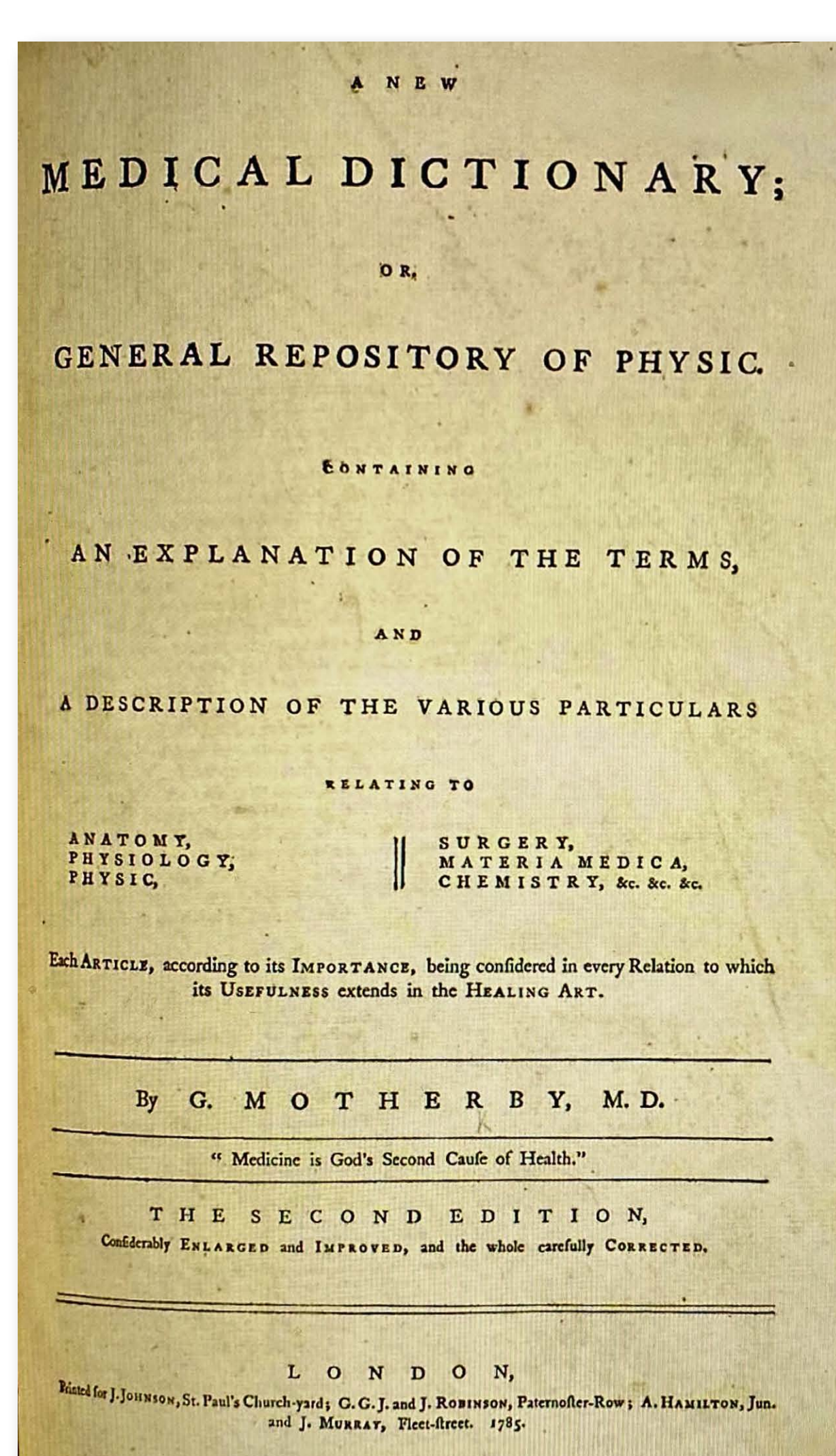
It is not known how well Kant knew **John Chappell** (1739-76) and **Charles Staniforth** (1732-97), the two master mariners from Hull, whose names were engraved on the drinking glass in 1763, but both were often at Königsberg.

Chappell's father Benjamin was a master mariner, sailing regularly from Hull to the Baltic from 1728 until he handed over his ship to his young son John in 1756. John then sailed three or four times a year to Königsberg until his death. He was a 'courteous and gentle-natured man, slight, gracious and cultivated [who] so loved books and poetry'. Chappell's daughter married the explorer Matthew Flinders.

Charles Staniforth, son of Elkanah Staniforth, who moved from Sheffield to Hull by 1724, was Joseph Green's brother-in-law. He married Ann Green less than a month before the gathering with Kant in August 1763.



William Motherby (1776-1847), son of Robert and Charlotte, became a celebrated physician in Königsberg and founded The Friends of Kant in 1805. He wrote his medical thesis at Edinburgh and dedicated it to Immanuel Kant. (Staatliche Kunstsammlungen Dresden)



Title page of the 2nd edition of George Motherby's *Medical Dictionary*, first published 1775. It contains the first definition of placebo. George, Robert Motherby's older brother, had only recently moved to Beverley when he died there in 1793, and was buried in the Minster.

Trinity House, Hull. Charles Staniforth was an Elder Brother of Trinity House, as was his brother John, who served as Warden on six occasions.

